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work of preparing a report for the coming meeting of the International Congress in this country? In this case it is to be desired that the work should be commenced without delay, either through the sub-committees already appointed or through others.

Or shall it accept its discharge at the last meeting of the A. A. A. S. as a committee "on," and lapse into the passive glory of the comité fondateur "of" the International Geological Congress, like a soul on which this mortal conception has conferred immortality? Whichever it may decide to do, there is at least one duty of which it cannot divest itself. By virtue of its character as representative of the geologists of North America it has become the responsible subscriber for the edition of the geological maps of Europe assigned to America as to other "great countries." By diligent inquiry it has procured a list of institutions and individuals, together making up the ten thousand francs for the one hundred copies which the map committee in Berlin has agreed to furnish to it. The committee is responsible to the North American subscribers for the delivery of these maps and the map committee in Berlin is pledged to furnish them to the committee. Before ceasing its mortal and commencing its spirit career, therefore, the most elementary considerations of propriety require that it should provide for the fulfilment of this obligation. How this should be done cannot be determined without a meeting of the members of the ex-committee *on*, who might be called together as the existing committee *of* the International Geological Congress.—PERSIFOR FRAZER.

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

The third session of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Holl was the most successful in the history of the institution. During the winter and spring a large addition was made to the building, giving six additional studies for advanced workers, and affording rooms for library and for lectures. This necessitated other changes. The old library quarters were fitted up for a chemical room, while a dark-room for photographic purposes was arranged. The crying need in past years was a steam launch, and this want has been met by the purchase of a thirty-nine-foot Burgess launch, capable of doing all the work required of it.

The attendance both of students and investigators was larger than ever before. In the department of instruction twenty-six students were enrolled, some coming from the distant States of South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, and South Carolina. There were seven present who were beginning investigation under instruction, while fourteen

more were conducting original investigations. Some of the results of the work done will be published at an early date.

During the summer the laboratory purchased four additional lots of land just north of the premises of the U. S. Fish Commission. On one lot there is a dwelling-house, which will be used in future for a mess-house for students and instructors. It is proposed to move the present laboratory to another of these new lots; while on a third, when funds warrant, it is proposed to erect a permanent station at which work can be carried on throughout the year. As a result of these expansions, the laboratory concludes the year with a deficit, but one which is not so large as to occasion serious worry. It is desired, however, to obtain as much aid as possible, and the trustees feel that all the funds should not come from Boston. So far but about one-fifth of all the students have come from Massachusetts; while, on the other hand, Boston has contributed over ninety per cent. of all the funds.

The Western Society of Naturalists will hold its annual meeting this year in the buildings of Purdue University, at Lafayette, Indiana, November 12th and 13th. Dr. C. E. Bessey, the retiring president, will deliver the annual address. A feature of the meeting will be the discussion of natural science as a requirement for admission to college. The secretary of the society is Dr. J. S. Kingsley, of Lincoln, Nebraska.

Howard Evarts Weed, M.Sc., recently a graduate student of the Michigan Agricultural College, has been appointed entomologist and horticulturist of the Mississippi Experiment Station.

Professor S. A. Forbes spent the summer in the Yellowstone Park investigating fish food conditions for the U. S. Fish Commission.

Mr. A. B. Cordley, of the Michigan Agricultural College, has been appointed entomologist of the Vermont Experiment Station.

At the recent meeting of the Society for the Promotion of Agricultural Science, Dr. C. E. Bessey was re-elected president, and Prof. W. R. Lazenby secretary, while Prof. H. W. Wiley was elected to the executive committee. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society: Prof. L. H. Bailey, of Cornell University; Professors Chas. S. Plumb and W. E. Stone, of Purdue University, and Prof. B. E. Fernow, of the U. S. Forestry Division.

The cotton worm has been recently receiving attention at the hands of Messrs. G. C. Davis and F. W. Malley, the former for the Arkansas Experiment Station, and the latter for the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

L. H. Dewey, recently of the Michigan Experiment Station, has been appointed an assistant in the U. S. Division of Botany.